

THE HON. C. B. SLEMP MAKES A STRIKING AND ABLE DEFENSE OF THE NEW UNITED STATES TARIFF LAW

Jonesville, Va., Sept. 5.—Representative C. B. Slemp sounded the keynote of his campaign here today in the presence of thousands of people, the largest in the history of Lee county. It was especially big day for the reason that the Hon. Henry C. Stuart was at the head of a speech here, which fact attracted the democrats of the county in large numbers.

The speech of Mr. Slemp was the pure of the day, and his able and convincing defense of the administration and the new tariff law greatly pleased the throng of people who heard him. Following the speech by Slemp, able talks were made by L. P. Summers, of Abingdon, and the new tariff law greatly pleased the throng of people who heard him. Following the speech by Slemp, able talks were made by L. P. Summers, of Abingdon, and the new tariff law greatly pleased the throng of people who heard him.

After rain last night, the day dawned here, and the crowds began to arrive early. The candidates were early shaking hands with the people. It was noticeable that Mr. Slemp was far more eagerly sought than Mr. Stuart, and the demonstration that was given for him on every side was hearty and genuine. The festive spirit of the Lee county republicans has been happily evidenced every way, and their enthusiastic attendance as well.

The speaking began a little after 11 o'clock. The republican speaking was from the front of the court house, the democratic in the large shed of a hardware store.

Mr. Slemp was introduced by Hon. C. Noel, whose address was a witty and scathing arraignment of democratic party and its policies. Then Mr. Slemp arose to speak he greeted by a demonstration never called here, and his speech was listened to with the closest attention throughout. His many telling points were greeted with enthusiastic applause. He did not adhere strictly to prepared speech, but covered the entire points.

The hold that Mr. Slemp has on the sections and good will of the people Lee county seems quite without a parallel.

Mr. Slemp was followed by the Hon. J. L. Gleaves, of Wytheville, and Hon. L. P. Summers, of Abingdon. The speeches of both these eminent orators were greeted with a continuous wave of enthusiasm.

The democratic speaking was inaugurated by Hon. R. T. Irvine. Mr. Irvine delivered a splendid speech and induced Mr. Stuart. After Mr. Stuart, Lige P. Williams spoke.

The republicans had clearly the majority of the crowd, the proportion being nearly two to one. A great many filled from one speaking to the next.

Mr. Irvine's popularity was evident the large crowd that heard him. Two bands furnished music and added to the enjoyment of the occasion. It was a big Slemp day, and the inspiration of this magnificent demonstration of his popularity and the high esteem in which he is held here will date through all parts of the district.

The question of a joint discussion is broached by Mr. Summers, but democrats were not in a frame of mind to seriously consider such a proposition.

Jonesville's Big Day.

Jonesville is a town of long and honorable precedents, but this is undoubtedly the biggest day of its history. All around the roads leading into town were thronged with a continuous stream of vehicles and footmen, also crowds traveling about one and all added toward the great center of attraction which is offered by the rival political meeting.

The vicinity of Jonesville presents day a spectacle much akin to that of an army of cavalry in encampment. The sturdy sons and charming daughters of the thriving county of Lee are here almost in entirety. In addition hundreds have thronged in from adjoining counties and even from the adjoining states of Kentucky and Tennessee, adding very materially to the amenity of the multitude.

Their Magic Slogan.

Long streams bearing the slogan "Vote for Slemp" are conspicuously on display. Thousands of Slemp buttons have been distributed amongst the assembled multitude and men are wearing them proudly on the lapels of their coats.

A Ludicrous Poster.

On every hand politics is, of course, the foremost topic of conversation. Here is a great deal of amusement over the poster which was gotten out by the democratic county authorities to Lee to advertise the democratic speaking. This poster announced in ambulatory style that the country and our section are rapidly going to ruin, and in every way giving the most marked evidence of panic. This poster is undoubtedly a gem. A great deal of derisive comment is heard on all sides, for the proposition of Lee county going to ruin and generally attaining itself for a trip to the "democratic how-ewes" is singularly attractive to the good citizens of Lee county.

In view of their exceptional prosperity and the tremendous crops which they are straining every effort to handle properly. Some unfeeling republicans have been so "mean" as to suggest that the big scare and panic so strongly indicated by this Lee county democratic poster is actually based on the fear and belief that their candidate for congress is on the high-road to political ruin and destruction, whence his partisans are undertaking to blame it all on the country.

The reception accorded Mr. Slemp

on every hand today has been truly remarkable and hardly eclipsed even by that wonderful demonstration at Abingdon on the day of the convention. Men have crowded in from all sides to shake his hand and to speak a word of greeting to their greatly admired young congressman. The assurances which he has received of vigorous and untiring support have been well calculated to thrill both with pleasure and with the happy confidence that Lee county will give him a handsome majority indeed this fall, as well as betokening splendid general success.

Saw the Rich Man.

The contrast between the attitude of the public toward the two men was aptly demonstrated. The crowds would go to look at Mr. Stuart and listen to him for a time and then pass on. The fact that they were governed by mere curiosity was apparent. The people simply want to see this great big rich man of whom they have heard so much, the man whose customs troubles have brought him to notoriety, even though not fame. As soon as their curiosity is gratified men pass on. When the personal demonstrations take place it is only the democratic leaders who crowd around Mr. Stuart to shake his hand. The great masses of the people seem to feel that this big rich man is not one of them and that his wealth, if not personality, causes him to be aloof from them.

They Like Slemp.

On the other hand, republicans, old and young, of all walks and classes in life, crowd to Mr. Slemp to give him greeting, and his charming and magnetic personality seems to draw them regardless of all conditions.

Mr. Stuart's speech is already well known and no further comment thereon is necessary. Mr. Slemp's speech is given below in entirety, and a perusal of it will, of itself, quickly suggest to every one the great enthusiasm with which it was received by the people of Jonesville and the good county of Lee.

The Speech.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY OF LEE:

I decided to open my part of this campaign in Lee County, because I am not only of the stock and lineage of Lee County, but I was born and grew to manhood's estate in one of her many beautiful valleys; so that I am "bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh." I come to you therefore, not as a stranger, but as one whose whole life is known to each and every one of you. As the representative of a great political party, as your present servant and representative in Congress, I come before you to thank you for the support and confidence which you have twice honored me, and to give you an account of my stewardship, as well as a statement of the policies and performances of the political party with which a majority of the people of this county have identified themselves.

The ashes of my ancestors for one hundred years repose beneath soil of this county. For generations they lived here as tillers of the soil; not land-lords—but plain farmers, and in my boyhood and early youth I performed such duties on the farm as belong to a farmer's boy; and, while I am not at present engaged personally in agricultural pursuits, I still retain my interest in our old home farm in Turkey Cove, and I believe that I could demonstrate in a practical way that I can build as good a hay-stack, or plow as straight a furrow as many of them who seem to think they have a claim to public support because they own a farm.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

While I am on this subject permit me to remind you that it was the Republican party to which I adhere, that created a National Department of Agriculture. During my stay in Congress it has been my constant aim to do all I could to promote the farmers' interests and to aid as far as possible in the circulation among them of information it has prepared on all farming subjects, whether they related to the preparation of the soil, the treatment of diseases of farm animals, the selection of seeds, the extermination of crop pests, the care of orchards, the building of good roads, and all the other manifold subjects relating to the great subject of agriculture.

OUR PROMISES:

I was first elected to Congress in December, 1907, and took the oath of office in January, 1908; so that I have been your representative in Congress for a little more than two years. In 1908, I was for the second time elected along with the national ticket upon a declaration of principles as set forth in the national republican platform, as adopted that year in Chicago, and reaffirmed at the District convention at Norton at which I was nominated. Our party platform for that year contained certain declarations and pledges, among which were plans favoring:

The Establishment of Postal Savings Banks;

The Creation of New States out of the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico;

The Enlargement of the Powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, more commonly known as "Railroad Rates Regulation;"

The Establishment of a Bureau of Mines;

The Continued Construction of the Panama Canal;

The Rehabilitation of the American Merchant Marine;

The revision of the Tariff in such a way as to provide for a tariff rate equal to the difference in the cost of production here and abroad, with a reasonable profit to our manufacturer.



THE HON. C. B. SLEMP.
The Present and Next Congressman from the Ninth Virginia District, and a Man in Whom the People Have Learned That It is Safe to Confide.

Striking Points From Mr. Slemp's Speech

From a careful reading of my opponent's speech in this campaign, I have come to the conclusion that he is going to try to crowd me off my tariff platform, but I am going to stick to it. I was elected on it; I served on it in congress, and am going to be elected again on it; and I am going to stand on it in spite of all my opponent may so or do.

He can stand on it with me if he will do so. There is plenty of room for us both, and other repentant democrats, and I will welcome him; but I want him to stand on it as a republican.

His party declared for sound money by "telegraph" in 1904—but when did it ever declare for a tariff sufficient to cover the difference in the cost of production in this and foreign countries? NEVER.

That is republican doctrine.

Having worn to a frazzle and abandoned free silver, the income tax, and other issues, they were looking around for something "as the hart paneth for the running brook"—so they eagerly attacked the schedules of the Payne tariff law.

Our opponents revised the tariff once within the memory of most of you, and have you ever heard any of them saying this year that they wanted to revise it again along the lines laid down in their Wilson-Gorman bill?

When it comes to telling the people what they did do for them when they had a chance, their memories fail them, and they are dumb as oysters.

I was present in congress during the entire time of the consideration of the bill, helped to frame certain features of the bill, and voted for the bill on its final passage. In doing this I felt that we secured the best bill that we could get under the present system of making tariff bills, and a far better bill than any that had preceded it.

In passing, let me remark that I was somewhat astonished at the activity shown by some of our democratic brethren in asking for increased duties.

In that way, I learned what the democratic attitude for tariff for revenue really is. It can be defined as "PROTECTION for what you have to SELL, and FREE TRADE for what you have to BUY."

I had my own district to look after, and every other congressman was appealed to by the business and industrial interests of his district, to see that they were not injured by the operation of the law. This was a great and serious responsibility to meet.

The ways and means committee considered all the conflicting interests and demands, and finally brought in a bill which involved 654 decreases, and 220 increases.

Under the operation of this bill, a deficit of fifty-eight million dollars in the treasury of the United States has already been converted into a surplus of twenty-nine million dollars.

The bill contained two provisions which I think are of so much importance that I would have been justified in voting for the bill if there were no other provisions or changes in it—provisions requiring the wealthy corporations of the country to pay an income tax, based on their legitimate profits—and the establishment of a tariff commission, whose duty it is to secure exact and scientific information regarding all schedules involved in tariff construction.

It is not to be supposed that our democratic friends who in 1896 advocated the debasement of our currency for the purpose of increasing the total volume of money and thus raise prices, can find any fault with the argument that the increased supply of gold has a great deal to do with the purchasing power of a dollar and the higher prices of products.

We must have a law that will do in effect for these large trusts and combinations what the republican party has already done for the railroads of the country—that is, not destroy them, but regulate them.

It should be our intentions to correct evils and not to create them.

These are not quite all, but they embody the chief declarations of our national platform. Upon this declaration of promises the American people, by a large majority, elected Mr. Taft president, and the good citizens of the Ninth district honored me with a second election to Congress by an unprecedented majority.

PERFORMANCES:

Let us see how we have made our performances square with our promises:

We did not shirk responsibility; the republican party never does.

The republican members of Congress began working, the Democrats

mission, more commonly known as railroad-rate regulation;

Established Postal Savings Banks;

Passed Conservation measures preserving our national domain to the people of the whole country;

Extended the rural free delivery service;

Strengthened our Navy;

Continued the construction of the Panama Canal;

Established a Bureau of Mines;

Admitted two States into the Union;

Passed laws in the interest of the laborer;

Passed laws in the interest of the farmer;

Excise tax imposed on all corporations;

The Census law, providing for the taking of the 13th Census;

Law requiring use of safety appliances on railroads made broader and more complete;

White-slave traffic penalized by a system of heavy fines;

Irrigation work of the Government extended, and administered all the affairs of the government in an efficient manner.

As a result of this beneficial legislation, the condition of our country is good. We have more money than ever before; more farm products than ever before; better prices for these products than ever before; more work to do than ever before; better pay for those who do it than ever before, and in general we are entering upon a period of great general prosperity.

This record of achievement for the national good stands without a parallel in American history, and the present Congress with one session still remaining, gives distinct promise of doing more than all its predecessors in progressive legislation. It is upon this record of national achievement that the republican party asks to be continued in control of the affairs of the government. I do not believe that there are any more unselfish, patriotic men in the land than those who compose the membership of the House of Representatives, and the record of legislative achievements would certainly confirm that view.

OUR FUTURE PROMISES:

President Taft summarizes the future efforts of the Republican party in his admirable letter recently made public, from which I quote:

In view of what the present Republican Congress has done in the fulfillment of its promises, and of the standard that it has set in respect to the sacredness of party pledges, I have no hesitation in urging all who are in favor of performance of the remaining pledges, who are in favor of progress, of practical conservation, of "economy of Government, of the just regulation of railways and of Interstate Commerce corporations, of a Bureau of Health, of a proper limitation of the power of equitable injunction and in favor of measures to promote the Merchant Marine engaged in foreign service, will vote for the republican candidate for Congress in order that their wish for this progressive legislation may be gratified."

I STAND ON MY PARTY'S PLATFORM:

I have now briefly and in a condensed form set forth the accomplishments and the legislative enactments of the Republican party. Towards these accomplishments the present campaign has been entered into by the democrats of the nation with criticism directed toward only one single feature of Republican legislation. We hear no criticisms of any Republican policy except that pertaining to the tariff, and it would seem now that the democratic party is embarrassed to know whether to condemn the principle on which the Payne tariff bill is framed, or some of the particular schedules involved in the bill.

From a careful reading of my opponent's opening speech in this campaign, I have come to the conclusion that he is going to try to crowd me off my tariff platform; but he shall not do it. I am going to stick to it. I was elected on it, I served in Congress on it, and I am going to stand on it in spite of all my opponent may say or do. He can stand on it with me if he will do so. There is plenty of room for us both, and for all repentant democrats, and I will welcome them; but I want them to stand on it as republicans.

PUBLICANS.

He was for Mr. Bryan and Free Silver, but he has repented of that. I am willing that he advocate sound money and still call himself a democrat; for his party declared for sound money by telegraph in 1904. But when did it ever declare for a tariff sufficient to cover the cost of production in this and foreign countries? NEVER—that is republican doctrine—and if he is going to stand on it, I insist that he wear my button and support me. I AM A PROTECTIONIST. I belong to a protection party, and by reason of this can lend some real aid to this policy that he has recently discovered to be good. He says his observations abroad have taught him this. If so, I am in favor of sending all the Democratic congressmen from Virginia on an observation trip to Europe right away. But they see and learn as my opponent has done, I think they ought to quit calling themselves Democrats for they would be out of place in a party that since the days of Calhoun has denounced the whole system of protection as unwise, unjust, unconstitutional and even as "robbery." It is nice to see the light spread even though it takes a trip abroad to spread it. But when we see our fellow-citizens who have hitherto been in darkness, now enjoying the light and proclaiming the truth abroad in the land, we cannot escape the conviction that somebody

has been preaching false political doctrines heretofore in this country. We cannot believe it is we, for they are all abandoning their craft and stumbling into the good old ship "REPUBLICAN." I wonder what sort of an apology the Democrats are going to offer the people for the way they have denounced protection heretofore and attempted to fool the people? And are going to put up on Judgment day about protection, and all the wrong they have said protection has done for the country. It seems to me that their minds would be constantly retreating to a verse in that good old hymn our mothers used to sing:

"And must I be to Judgment brought,
"To answer in that day,
"For every vain and idle thought,
"And every word I say?"

My distinguished opponent's CONVERSION to the doctrine of Protection, has a parallel in the words of the Old Roman governor to Apostle St. Paul; after hearing the unsearchable truths of Christianity, which were explained to him by the great apostle, he exclaimed:

"ALMOST Thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Let us hope that in the case of my opponent that his conversion to REPUBLICANISM will be complete, and that we will not have to quote another good old hymn—

"ALMOST Persuaded—but LOST."

DESTRUCTION VS. CONSTRUCTION.

We are told that we did not revise the tariff in accordance with our promises and that we did not revise it right. I am willing to acknowledge that we did not revise it according to democratic ideas, and therefore, it would be presumptuous for us to expect that they would be pleased with it. Having worn to a frazzle and abandoned Free Silver, Anti-imperialism, the Income Tax and other issues, they were looking around for something new and not well understood by the people, and so they eagerly attacked the schedules of the Payne tariff law. They panted for something new, "as the hart paneth for the running brook."

But mind you, while this bill was under consideration, they never offered anything in the way of a substitute; we were not favored with any of their wisdom; they did then, just what they are now doing, went about complaining that what we did was not right.

The republicans, not afraid to do business, not afraid of responsibility, went ahead, steadily and earnestly, constructed and passed the tariff bill, and, my Friends, when this law is understood by the people and when it has had more time to demonstrate its worth as it is doing day by day, most of the criticism that is hurled at it by the democrats will be silenced and our democratic friends will come around on the tariff law as they have on the other questions I have enumerated—and then they will be looking for something new again.

Anybody can criticize what others have done; a man who could not make a mud-pie, could criticize the statue of Venus de Milo; a man who could not sharpen a plow-point, could under the splendid mechanism of a watch. It is the difference between destruction and construction; between tearing down and building up. Why, our opponents revised the tariff once within the memory of most of you; and, have you heard any of them saying this year they want to revise it again along the lines laid down in the democratic Wilson-Gorman bill—Their BILL—I pause for reply. I have heard of none such and so I charge them with bad memory. They are always telling people what they are going to do for them; but, when it comes to telling the people what they did do for them when they had a chance, their memories fail them and they are as dumb as oysters. They criticized our tariff law, but we already know that under its operation revenues have outrun expenditures, and business has revived and that in two years they cannot claim—dare not claim—for their Wilson-Gorman law.

THE PAYNE TARIFF BILL:

The Payne tariff bill was passed at a special session of the present congress, called in response to the pledge contained in the last republican national platform to revise the tariff. I was present in congress during the entire time of the consideration of the bill, helped to frame certain features of the bill, and voted for the bill on its final passage.

The Ways and Means Committee had charge of the bill and Mr. Payne of New York was its chairman. He called this committee together immediately after the November election in 1908, many months before congress would assemble, which would have consideration of the bill. They held hearings from nine o'clock in the morning until late in the afternoon, open to the public, open to the press, open to everyone and anyone who had any suggestion to offer, or anything to say. They conferred with the officials of the various departments of government; communicated with practically all the American consuls abroad for information regarding the foreign cost of production. They invited the manufacturer, the importer, scientists, political economists, professors, experts, laborers, and farmers, members of Congress and everybody, and the much talked of consumers to make statements in regard to the relative cost of production of articles in this country and abroad, so as to prop-

erly fix the tariff rates in accordance with the principle laid down in the Republican National platform, namely, the difference in the cost of production in this country and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to the American manufacturer. This committee worked unceasingly from November, 1908, until March, 1909, and so industriously that the Hon. Champ Clark, Democratic leader of the house, and member of the Ways and Means committee, said that he had no doubt that this work done by this committee, had injured the health of every member of the committee, including his own. We found that practically every section of the country had interests peculiar to itself. We found frequently that these interests were conflicting. We found the importer asking that duties be kept low in order that he could import foreign made goods. We found the manufacturer asking often for increased protection, in order to meet foreign competition. We were besieged by letters from Chambers of Commerce, Business Men's clubs, Boards of Trade, asking for a consideration of this, that or the other particular item in the bill. It was impossible for every man to get what he wanted in the bill. In passing, let me remark that I was somewhat astonished at the activity shown by some of our democratic brethren in asking for increased duties. My experience in Congress has been short, but from what I have observed I thought, judging from their platform declarations for the past fifty years, that they looked upon protection as "robbery" and would not dare participate in any benefits to be derived from it.

DEMOCRATS FAVORED INCREASES.

On the contrary I FOUND

Forty democratic members of Congress from the South, violating their party pledge, and asking for protection on lumber;

1 found

Senator Tillman asking for a tariff of ten cents per pound on tea;

1 found

Mr. Maynard and Mr. Lassiter from Virginia, asking for 400 per cent increase on peanuts;

1 found

All the Florida representatives in Congress asking for an increased duty on pineapples, citrus-fruit and long staple cotton;

1 found

The Democratic delegation from Texas, saying: "You can take the tariff off everything but hides;"

1 found

Representative Saunders of Virginia, asking for an increased duty on certain grades of tobacco;

1 found

Both senators from Virginia asking for an increased duty on extract of quebracho wood;

1 found

Every Louisiana Congressman clamoring for a tariff on sugar and opposing reduction.

In that way I learned what the democratic attitude of "tariff for revenue" really was. It can be defined as:

"PROTECTION for what you have to SELL," and

"FREE-TRADE for what you have to BUY."

Other illustrations could be given. For example:

Senator Deliver was greatly interested in an increased duty on barley. They produce barley in Iowa;

Senator LaFollette wanted the tariff duty on pulpwood and print paper increased. They have paper mills in Wisconsin.

I gave consideration to the subject from a national standpoint. I addressed myself to certain general features of the bill and in addition I had my own district to look after, and every other member who was sent to Congress was appealed to by the people of his district to see that they were not injured by the operation of the law. The Ways and Means Committee considered all the conflicting demands and finally brought in a law which passed the house and was sent to the senate.

The bill had a stormy career in the United States Senate between certain western republicans and the main body of republicans in the senate. Business in this country was at a standstill; no man knew what investments to make, or what developments to make, or changes in his business to make until the tariff was settled. It passed the senate and was in conference between the house and senate, and was finally agreed to by a majority of republicans and a few democrats, and signed by President Taft.

DECREASES 3 TIMES GREATER THAN INCREASES.

This is a brief history of the construction of the bill which involved:

654 DECREASES

and

220 INCREASES

Or, more than THREE TIMES as many DECREASES as there were INCREASES, as the following table will show:

Continued on Next Page.)